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October 25, 1962

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of October 24, and I regret very much that you still do not appear to understand what it is that has moved us in this matter.

The sequence of events is clear. In August there were reports of important shipments of military equipment and technicians from the Soviet Union to Cuba. In early September I indicated very plainly that the United States would regard any shipment of offensive weapons as presenting the gravest issues. After that time, this Government received the most explicit assurances from your Government and its representatives, both publicly and privately, that no offensive weapons were being sent to Cuba. If you will review the statement issued by Tass in September, you will see how clearly this assurance was given.

In reliance on these solemn assurances I urged restraint upon those in this country who were urging action in this matter at that time. And then I learned beyond doubt what you have not denied -- namely, that all these public assurances were false and that your military people had set out recently to establish a set of missile bases in Cuba. I ask you to recognize clearly, Mr. Chairman, that it was not I who issued the first challenge in this case, and that in the light of this record these activities in Cuba required the responses I have announced.

I repeat my regret that these events should cause a deterioration in our relations. I hope that your Government will take the necessary action to permit a restoration of the earlier situation.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Kennedy

N. S. Khrushchev
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Moscow, USSR

FORWARDED COPY FOLLOWS

198

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

12901

INDICATE: COMINT
 CHARGE TO

41

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EYES ONLY

Oct 25 1:59 AM '62

ON: ACTION: Embassy MOSCOW NIACT 997
 SS
 REF: Embtel 1070

EYES ONLY

021

Signed original following message from President to
 Khrushchev delivered to ~~XXX~~ Soviet Embassy 1:45 a.m.
 October 25
 Washington time. Please deliver to highest ranking ~~XXX~~ Soviet
 official immediately available.

October 25, 1962

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I have received your letter of October 24, and I regret
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The sequence of events is clear. In August there were
 reports of important shipments of military equipment and
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RELEASE DATE: 11/1/2025
 DECLASSIFY IN PART
 EXCISE
 DEFY
 Non-responsive info.
 FOI, EO or PA exemptions
 CLASSIFY AS: OADR
 DOWNGRADE TO: U or C, OADR
 T3 authority to:

White House

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

S/S - Mr. Johnson

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FORM DS-322
5-61

87 - DOS 0317 P.B

EYES ONLY

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Government and its representatives, both publicly and privately, that no offensive weapons were being sent to Cuba. If you will see review the statement issued by Tass in September, you will ~~see~~ how clearly this assurance was given.

In reliance on these ~~XXXX~~ solemn assurances I urged restraint upon those in this country who were urging action in this matter at that time. And then I learned beyond doubt what you have not denied -- namely, that all these public ~~xxxxxx~~ assurances were false and that your military people had set out recently to establish a set of ~~xxxx~~ missile ~~xx~~ bases in Cuba. I ask you to recognize clearly, Mr. Chairman, that it was not I who issued the first ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ challenge in this case, and that in the light of this record these activities in Cuba required the responses I have announced.

I repeat my regret that these ~~XXXXX~~ events should cause a deterioration in our relations. I hope that your Government will take the necessary action to permit a restoration of the earlier situation.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN F. KENNEDY UNQUOTE

Please report time delivery.

Note: Relayed: Sec. McNamara-Defense, Chairman JCS, CIA,
Treasury and Justice Dep'ts. 10⁰⁰25/62 per SS

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RUSK